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The Times

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Two-week holiday edition

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Wednesday, December 23, 2020

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Lockdown begins Boxing Day

by **CHAD INGRAM**
Editor

Haliburton County and other parts of Ontario south of Sudbury will enter a provincially mandated 28-day lockdown effective Boxing Day, with many types of businesses mandated to close or to revert to curbside pickup, takeout and delivery services.

"We saw this morning's modelling, that our COVID numbers continue to grow at an alarming rate," Premier Doug Ford said during a Dec. 21 press conference, adding the province has seen a 70 per cent increase in hospital admissions and 80 per cent increase in intensive care unit admissions in the past few weeks.

"We're on the verge of cancelling more elective surgeries."

The premier said there is currently a backlog for surgeries that is thousands of patients long.

"I am also alarmed by reports of a new strain of COVID-19," Ford said, referencing a new variant of the virus emerging in the United Kingdom.

As of 12:01 a.m. on Dec. 26, restrictions

see NEW page 2



Riding winter waves

Paddler Nick Newman drives his paddle in the water, navigating the waves on the Gull River on Sunday, Dec. 20 at the Minden Whitewater Preserve, located on Horseshoe Lake Road. Newman was with a small group of other experienced paddlers, who've previously taken on the rapids. See more photos on page 9. / DARREN LUM Staff

Big decisions ahead at Highlands Cinemas

by **CHAD INGRAM**
Editor

"We need to open next year, and if we don't we have problems," says Keith Stata, owner of Kinmount's Highlands Cinemas. "We need to be able to open in 2021, at least at some point."

The COVID-19 pandemic has hit the beloved seasonal movie theatre and museum hard, with Stata ultimately not opening at all in 2020, something that's never happened in four decades in business.

"The problem is after 40 years, I know what makes the theatre work," he says. "You can't have staff on when you might be open, or might not be open."

While he had applications for staff for last summer, at one point provincial restrictions had made it look like theatres would not be permitted to open at all. The mandated closure of certain groups of businesses also meant that groups of movie-goers essential for the theatre's livelihood would not be in the area.

"First of all, we need the camps," Stata says. "How many camps were open?"

The same went for school trips, and other types of group outings.

While the provincial government eventually allowed movie theatres to open their

see FUTURE page 2

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New grant program for businesses

from page 1

similar to those that were in place in March and April will come into effect, with many types of businesses and retail stores mandated to close their doors. According to a press release from the province, there will be restrictions on indoor public events and social gatherings, and the government is asking residents not to gather with people outside their own household for the holidays, or for those who live alone to gather with just one other household. The release says in-person shopping will be prohibited in most settings, while curbside pickup and delivery services may continue. Grocery stores and other stores that sell primarily food, along with pharmacies, will be able to operate at 50 per cent capacity for in-store shopping. Indoor access to shopping malls will be restricted, with malls permitted to set up outdoor pick-up areas. Both indoor and outdoor dining at restaurants and bars will be prohibited, with those establishments permitted to offer take-

out, drive-through and delivery options.

"This difficult action is without a doubt necessary to save lives," Ford said.

Most manufacturing and construction is permitted to continue, and childcare facilities will remain open. While many outdoor recreational facilities are permitted to stay open, ski hills are mandated to close for the 28-day period.

Ontarians are encouraged to stay home as much as possible.

The government is also rolling out a new grant program to assist struggling small businesses, which will provide a minimum of \$10,000 and a maximum of \$20,000 to eligible businesses. To be eligible, businesses must be those that are required to close or significantly restrict services beginning Dec. 26. They must have fewer than 100 employees and must have experienced at least a 20 per cent decline in revenue between April of 2019 and April of 2020.

"Starting at \$10,000 for all eligible businesses, the grant will provide businesses

with dollar for dollar funding to a maximum of \$20,000 to help cover decreased revenue expected as a result of the province-wide shutdown," the release reads. Businesses that are permitted to remain open during the lockdown are not eligible for the grant.

"Ontario's business owners have shown remarkable resolve and ingenuity throughout the pandemic," Finance Minister Rod Phillips said in the release. "They know better than anyone what they need to come through

this very difficult time, so they can continue to serve and employ people in their communities. The new Ontario Small Business Support Grant will provide significant financial support to eligible small business owners in addition to the other supports made available to our small business community."

Businesses impacted by the lockdown will also be eligible for property tax and energy bill rebates.

AH to open rinks in January

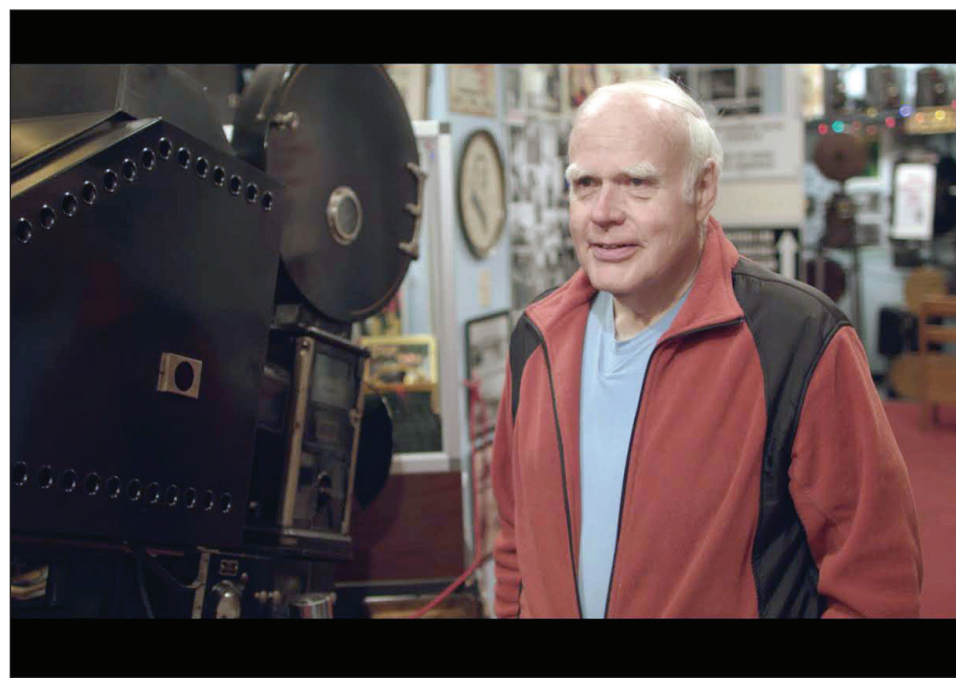
The Township of Algonquin Highlands plans to open its outdoor skating rinks in Dorset and Stanhope, dependent upon the weather, but the township will close the rinks if COVID-19 protocols are not adhered to by residents.

Amid the ongoing pandemic and in accordance with regulations provided by the health unit, only recreational skating will be permitted. There is to be no sports equipment

used on the ice surfaces, and no gameplay is permitted.

"In addition to the above regulations all COVID-19 social distancing requirements shall be adhered to," reads a release from the township. "Failure to follow these regulations will result in the closure of the rinks."

- Staff



Highlands Cinemas owner Keith Stata, seen here in a still from a documentary, says he needs to open the theatre at some point in 2021 for it to stay in business. /Photo courtesy of Matt Finlin

Future of theatre uncertain

from page 1

doors, it was with social distancing measures in place. Highlands Cinemas is comprised of a handful of small theatres. The laws around social distancing mean he could fit 11 people in one, 12 in another. It's not enough to pay the bills. "If they don't relax social distancing, how the hell can we open the theatre?" Stata says.

Heading into the season, Stata purchases popcorn in bulk, spending \$15,000. Insurance costs about the same. "You spend \$30,000 and open the doors, and nobody's here," he says.

There's also the work that nobody sees.

"People think I just close the doors and go

to Florida for five months," Stata says, estimating he spends about 120 hours each fall closing up shop.

There's also the future of movie-going in general to consider.

"The biggest problem is, are people going to feel safe, ever, going to the theatre?" Stata says.

As for what will happen in 2021, Stata says it's too early to tell, and that there are just too many unknowns at this time with what will happen with the curve of the virus and what provincial regulations might look like by the time next summer arrives.

One thing seems fairly certain, though.

"For us to go two years without any income would be a stretch," Stata says.

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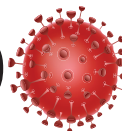


Ryan is committed to listening to his clients' needs and utilizing his keen negotiating skills to ensure a successful transaction. When he is not engaged in his clients' real estate goals, he is an invested family man with three beautiful children. Prior to his career as a music and history teacher, Ryan completed his BA in History at Mount Alison University before obtaining his Teaching degree from the University Of Canterbury, New Zealand.

Ryan knows the area and has built a network of tradespeople and professionals to ensure that your plans in the Haliburton Highlands start off on the best footing. Having lived and cottaged in the area for over 30 years, Ryan recognizes the appeal of the area and is the perfect Salesperson to market or find your property in the Haliburton Highlands.

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COVID-19



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Due to the pandemic's 28-day provincial lockdown our Minden Times office will be closed to the public until Monday, January 25th. Our newspapers will still be printing as usual during this time.

The Times
MINDEN ONTARIO

Housing development proposed for Water Street

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

The owners of the former Beaver Theatre along Minden's Water Street are proposing a mixed-use, residential and commercial building for the property.

Minden Hills councillors heard a delegation on the matter during a Dec. 17 online meeting, as the developers are seeking exemption to an environmental assessment required for the project. It was the first time some members of council had heard of the project, and the matter is scheduled to come back to the council table with more information in January.

The owners are the same ones who'd had a proposal to revive the derelict theatre in 2016 as an arts and community space, with a formerly numbered company now going by the name Fortune Realty Developers Limited.

"What we are talking about is not a very high-rise property, it's just ground, plus two floors," said company director Shamsheer Khemani. Documents referred to a building containing 12 apartment units each with two to three bedrooms, as well as commercial space. Contractor Joe Ferrara said the project was 95 per cent ready to go, but that demolition of the abandoned theatre would not proceed until the project had the green light from council.

"Development of an old property into something that serves our community is exciting," said Mayor Brent Devolin, but noted the documentation the developers were referring to had not yet come before council. Reps from the company have been having meetings with township planning staff.

"We need some more complete information," Devolin said,



The owners of the former Beaver Theatre property are now proposing an apartment building with ground-level commercial space for the site. /CHAD INGRAM Staff

adding that the matter would likely come back to council in the form of a staff report in late January.

There was some discrepancy between the three-storey building being described and a drawing of a two-storey building, and some councillors also expressed concerns around entranceways and what seemed to be a lack of parking space.

"We need to get a true picture of what is happening," said Councillor Bob Carter.

"This is the first time I'm hearing about this and therefore I need more information before I make a decision," said Councillor Jennifer Hughey.

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WATER AND SEWER ACCOUNTS

Please note that any balance outstanding on your water and sewer account at December 31st will be transferred to your tax account.

If you pay your account by telephone or on-line banking, any payments received at the Township office in the new year will be up-loaded to your water/sewer account. It is your responsibility to make your payment to the appropriate account – utility or taxes.

Any payments made on your utility account after the balance is transferred to taxes, will result in a credit on your utility account until the next quarterly billing, and will only be transferred to taxes upon written request, subject to an administration fee of \$25.00.

Please ensure your on-line or telephone banking payments are made to the appropriate utility or tax account.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact our office at 705-286-1260, ext. 501 or by email at water-sewer@minden.ca

2020 TAX INFORMATION

Council passed By-law #20-63 to suspend late charges on all 2020 tax installments until the first day following December 4, 2020 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

This is a reminder that the 2020 property taxes were due on December 4th. Interest will be added effective January 1, 2021 to all tax amounts outstanding as of this date.

You may pay your taxes via telephone or on-line banking or pay at your financial institution. Please allow three (3) business days for payments to be received by our office.

Payments can also be made by cheque and mailed or put in our secured drop box at 7 Milne St. located on the north wall of the Administration building facing Pritchard Lane and the Municipal parking lot. It is accessed from the wheelchair entrance and is at the top of the first ramp. Absolutely NO cash is to be put in the drop box. Please make cheques payable to the Township of Minden Hills.

If you have any questions, please contact the tax department at (705) 286-1260 and press option "3".

(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Committee of the Whole meetings are currently being conducted virtually via web conference and Closed Session meetings via teleconference, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted.

The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

January 14 – Budget Standing Committee Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at www.minden.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process. Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting our website at www.minden.ca/council/.

Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

Seasons Greetings

From the
Township of Minden Hills
Council and Staff would like to wish everyone in Minden Hills a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

MUNICIPAL HOLIDAY HOURS

Administration Office
Dec 21st to Dec 23rd 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
CLOSED Dec 24th at 11:30 AM to Jan 1st, 2021

Cultural Centre/Agnes Jamieson Gallery
CLOSED Dec 5th for the remainder of 2020

Landfills
All Sites are **CLOSED** Dec 25th & Jan 1st

Community Services Department
Administration Office
Dec 21st to Dec 23rd 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
CLOSED Dec 24th at 11:30 AM to Jan 1st, 2021

Public Works Department
Administration Office
Dec 21st to December 23rd 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
CLOSED Dec 24th at 11:30 AM to Jan 1st, 2021

Fire Department
Administration Office
Dec 21st to December 23rd 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
CLOSED Dec 24th at 11:30 AM to Jan 1st, 2021

Regular hours resume Jan 4th, 2021

HOLIDAY HOURS AT WASTE SITES

All Minden Hills Waste Sites are closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day so our Staff can enjoy time with their families. Happy Holidays!

NOTICE – 2021 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will commence the 2nd round of its 2021 Budget deliberations during its Special Council Meeting via web conference scheduled for January 14, 2021.

Trisha McKibbin, CAO/Clerk, 705-286-1260 ext. 505
tmckibbin@minden.ca

A MESSAGE FROM THE MINDEN HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Please make sure your chimney is clean before the colder winter months set in and you begin to use your fire and chimneys again. Fires can start accidentally in your chimney. Soot and fuel residues slowly build up in chimneys over time and sometimes these leftovers can catch fire. If this happens, the chimney could send burning soot into your living room or start fires within the roof space or on other floors of the house. Even if it doesn't burn the house down, a chimney fire can cause a huge mess. You can help prevent this by having your chimney swept regularly.

Chimney safety tips

Clean your chimney and flue regularly
Make sure embers are properly put out before you go to bed
Always use a fire guard to protect against flying sparks from hot embers

If the worst should happen, a smoke alarm can give you the extra time you need to escape a house fire. A blocked or defective chimney can cause both chimney fires and carbon monoxide poisonings so it's very important to employ a professional qualified Chimney Sweeper.

How often should you clean your chimney?

Oil - Once a year
Gas - Once a year
Bituminous coal - Twice a year
Wood - Up to four times a year
Smokeless coals - At least once a year

WINTER PARKING

From Nov 1st to Apr 30th, overnight parking is prohibited between the hours of midnight and 8:00 AM on township roadways and parking lots. Furthermore, parking in the turning circle of a cul-de-sac is prohibited during all hours. Vehicles parked in these areas that prohibit the removal of snow will be towed away and/or ticketed at the owner's expense.

Novel *Kinmount* puts spotlight on stage

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

Rod Carley's new novel *Kinmount* is a humorous take on small-town theatre that draws from Carley's own experiences.

"The genesis for it happened when I was a young director," says Carley, who teaches at Canadore College and Nipissing University in North Bay and has previously worked with the Highlands Summer Festival.

"I want to put a qualifier in here – all my experiences with the Highlands Summer Festival were wonderful," he says.

As Carley explains, going back about 25 years he was working as a freelance director, hired to put on productions in various communities. "I did this all over the province and into the United States," he says, adding that part of a director's role is preserving the integrity of a piece of work. "As a director, you're responsible for delivering the words of the playwright."

Carley encountered some situations where producers wanted him to substantially change the plays he was directing for them, in ways they shouldn't have been changed.

"In two cases, I had to walk away from projects," he says. "At the time, they were very harrowing, awful experiences."

In retrospect, Carley saw the humour in these situations, and they form the basis for the book.

"I believe you can tackle serious topics using humour," he says. "They are funny now that I have some distance on it."

Kinmount is about a production of *Romeo and Juliet* gone awry and is set in, well,



Rod Carley's new novel *Kinmount* follows the course of a Shakespeare production gone awry. /Photo submitted

Kinmount.

"The name was naturally funny," Carley says, noting the word *Kinmount* contains a noun followed by a verb. "With apologies to the good people of Kinmount," he adds, noting a similar apology appears in the book itself. Aside from the name and some reference to a history of logging, Carley says the *Kinmount* in his story is otherwise fictionalized. The book is Carley's second novel and was published during a unique time.

"*Kinmount* was launched during the pandemic," he says. "We're all coping with the pandemic in different ways."

Carley says he hopes his humorous novel "is a good tonic that we'll get through it. Everyone needs a laugh right now."

The book clearly had author Terry Fallis cracking up.

"Rod Carley's *Kinmount* is a hit that kept me laughing and turning the pages from curtain to curtain," Fallis wrote in a review. "It is funny, thoughtful, compelling, and filled with humane insights about people and their passions."

"If you are in theatre, either as spectator or (foolishly) more deeply involved; if you have ever lived in or driven through an

Ontario small town; if you have made love to someone north of Highway 7 and come to understand the intrusive curiosity of shadflies, *Kinmount* is going to make you howl with laughter," Dave Carley – who notes he and Carley are not related – wrote in his review of the novel.

Kinmount is published by Latitude 46 Publishing and is available for order on the company's website as well as Indigo and Amazon, but Carley notes he likes to support independent bookstores and encouraged those interested in his book to try ordering it through Master's Book Store.



May you find health,
happiness, and peace
during the holiday
season and through
the coming year.



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Your faith in our expertise,
And the relationship we enjoy with you,
We sincerely thank you and wish you a
happy + prosperous New Year!



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School board announces extended winter break

by **SUE TIFFIN**
Times Staff

Prior to heading home for the holidays, students across the province were told to pack their school bags with everything they might need to study at home in case schools didn't open as planned after the winter break. At a Dec. 21 press conference, Premier Doug Ford announced a 28-day province-wide lockdown, bumping a Jan. 4 return to in-person learning to Jan. 11 for elementary students and Jan. 25 for secondary students.

Wes Hahn, director of education with Trillium Lakelands District School Board, sent a letter home to families on Dec. 17 noting the school board was preparing for online learning in case the break was extended. A Dec. 21 update from the school board confirmed students currently enrolled in in-person learning will have access to online learning beginning the week of Jan. 4.

"The Ontario government has ordered all publicly funded schools in Ontario to temporarily move to remote learning starting on Jan. 4," reads the update posted on the TLDSB COVID-19 update webpage. "This means that Trillium Lakelands District School Board elementary schools will be closed for an additional week following the holiday break, with online learning starting on January 4, reopening to in-class learning on January 11. Secondary schools will also remain closed, with online learning starting on January 4, reopening to in-class learning on January 25."

The last day of school before the winter break for Haliburton County students enrolled in in-person or online learning was Dec. 18 but teachers will reach out to students to prepare for the return to remote learning.

"All students have access to an online classroom using one of the following platforms: Google Classroom, Seesaw or Brightspace," reads the update on the TLDSB site. "The

school day schedule will continue to be followed and curriculum will be delivered via a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning instruction. Classroom teachers will reach out directly to families to ensure your child is ready for online learning on January 4. If you have any questions, or if your child requires access to a device to support their learning, please contact your child's school directly on January 4."

Soon after the Dec. 21 press conference, the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario published a statement continuing to call on the provincial government to reduce class sizes to ensure two metres of physical distancing; establish mandatory caps on class size and fund improvements to ventilation and air filtration among other calls to action.

"The plan to reopen elementary schools in the midst of a province-wide lockdown doesn't make sense," said Sam Hammond, ETFO president. "These new provincial restrictions will not be effective unless every possible action is taken to prevent COVID-19 transmission in elementary schools when they reopen. It's time to do what is urgently needed, not what is politically convenient."

"By downplaying the transmission of COVID-19 in elementary schools and refusing to provide the necessary funding, despite having billions of dollars in unallocated contingency funds, the Ford government has proven that they aren't interested in ensuring all schools are safe. Reopening schools with an underfunded and inequitable virtual learning strategy is not a solution."

While the ETFO press release notes other provinces announced post-winter break plans weeks ago, Hammond said, "By announcing Ontario's plans over the holidays, [Minister of Education Stephen] Lecce is once again showing his disrespect for educators. Had this government made its decision earlier, boards, educators, families and students could have been better prepared for the transition back to virtual learning."

According to the province's website detailing data on

COVID-19 cases in schools and child care centres, as of Dec. 21, a cumulative total of 7,292 school-related cases of COVID-19 had been reported, 5,103 of those being school-related student cases, 1,094 being school-related staff cases and 1,095 being individuals not identified. As of Dec. 18, 957 schools of 4,828 in the province – about 20 per cent – currently had a reported case, and 22 schools were closed. In licensed child care settings, 1,265 cases of COVID-19 – 685 child cases and 580 staff/provider cases – have been reported, with a total of 244 centres, just over 4.5 per cent of centres, currently having a confirmed case. A message on the province's COVID-19 cases in schools and child care centres website posted on Dec. 22 states that due to the winter break and the remote learning period, school data from Dec. 22 to Jan. 8, 2021 would not be posted, with the site resuming school data updates on Jan. 12, 2021. Child care data will continue to be published on regular business days during the winter break.

According to Sinead Fegan, TLDSB spokesperson, there are currently no active cases of COVID-19 in the TLDSB.

Child care centres will remain open during the lockdown.

On Dec. 22, the provincial government announced the expansion of the Support for Learners program to include secondary school students in a one-time payment of \$200 per eligible student. More information will be available at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/get-support-learners> in January.

COVID-19 information updates from the school board can be found at www.tldsb.ca/covid-19, or via the board's social media pages on Facebook (www.facebook.com/TLDSB) or Twitter (@TLDSB).

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Wishing You a Merry Christmas

- Lynda Litwin



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May the Lord Jesus Christ grant you peace and renew your strength for the year ahead.

Bill Kulas



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Clampdown

IN WHAT WAS a poorly kept secret, on Monday Premier Doug Ford announced a province-wide lockdown for Ontario amid the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, one scheduled to commence on Boxing Day.

It paints a picture of a government that is scrambling; a government that is losing control of the situation.

Rewind to late summer. Summer was a “good” period as far as the pandemic goes, with fewer hospitalizations and deaths, and the number of new confirmed cases for the province hovering around 100 per day in late August. All the while, epidemiologists had been warning the autumn would bring a second wave of the coronavirus in Ontario, one that would potentially have higher case numbers than the first. Epidemiologists had said the number of confirmed cases was likely to dip during the summer with warmer temperatures and people spending more time outside, before spiking again in the fall. Remember the common cold and flu are also types of coronaviruses. When is cold and flu season? The winter, when we’re all cooped up indoors.

As summer segued to autumn, Ontarians wondered what the government’s fall plan was for dealing with the virus would be. The government said it had one. In late September it was apparently unveiled, with Ford telling people to get the flu shot. It seemed like the Ford government was crossing

its proverbial fingers and hoping for the best.

Then the government produced a colour-coded chart. Based on case numbers in health unit districts, they were assigned one of a number of colour classifications, each with a different set of restrictions. In recent weeks, more and more regions have been moved into the “red” zone, then the “grey” zone of lockdown.

All the while, throughout the autumn before daily confirmed case numbers in Ontario continued to climb closer and closer to 2,000, and at press time are hundreds of cases north of that. And now, on the brink of the holiday season, the government announces a new lockdown.

**CHAD INGRAM**
Editor

This could have been done earlier, say, during the malaise that is the month of November.

Better yet, stricter measures could have been put in place, particularly in the province’s hot zones, in a more widespread fashion in early autumn and maybe we could have had a merrier holiday season.

Ford and other leaders are in an incredibly difficult and unenviable position, tasked with trying to strike a balance between public health and not completely crushing economic activity, and their decisions are always going to be wrong to someone. This decision definitely seems like a scramble, a last-minute attempt to mitigate a wave that’s been building since the summer.

Say some curtains in your house caught fire. Would you call the fire department then, or would you wait until the entire house was engulfed in flames to call?

Kwarky

*Delivery Season's Greetings*

The fine art of tracking

ONE OF THE early Christmas presents I received this year was a book on tracking. I should clarify for younger folks, that when an older person speaks of tracking, they are not referring to the progress of Amazon parcels. No, they are actually discussing tracking an animal – which is a whole other thing.

Tracking is the art of following a set of footprints and associated clues until they lead you to the animal that made them.

People new to tracking tend to focus on the animal’s footprints. But the associated sign is really what helps you understand what you are tracking as well as the animal’s mindset.

I am by no means an expert tracker, but I do know that, if I was following grizzly bear tracks and noticed a lot of scat along the trail, I would assume that the bear was aggressive and in a bad mood. Otherwise, why would the tracker ahead of me leave that much sign?

This is what tracking is all about, interpreting the clues.

The book I am referring to says that tracking, which was once solely the domain of hunters, is now becoming a hobby for many non-hunters too.

But before the non-hunter in your life takes it up, I think it is only right to point out one important thing. Namely, there are not a lot of books written by non-hunting folks who were really good at tracking big, dangerous game animals.

That’s because tracking is a game of diminishing returns. The bigger and meaner the animal, the less likely the tracker returns.

I once met an unarmed tracker, who had successfully tracked two alligators right to their resting spot under the bank. He was not

unarmed before then.

Don’t get me wrong. Non-hunters should take up tracking because it does get them outside and leads them to a closer understanding of the animal and nature in general. They should just limit their efforts, however, to tracking animals they could best in a fair fight. And remember, a gang of four red squirrels is not something it is wise to underestimate. Don’t ask how I know.

Besides, if you are just looking to build your skills and have fun, tracking small game is better suited to both. Anyone can identify a deer, moose, caribou, elk or bear track but it takes a true expert to differentiate between a white-footed mouse and deer mouse track. Which is why when you run into a mouse track if you appear confident before you guess the answer, no one will challenge you.

Not to bash the book, but I did notice the author forgot to mention the most important part of tracking. And that is the sound of a thoughtful “hmmm.”

If you know how to do this convincingly enough, you are halfway to being considered an expert.

For that sound gives the appearance that the tracker in question has analysed the length of stride, the track width, the imprint and accompanying sign and is now in the process of determining what animal left the prints and how long ago, right down to the exact minute.

All the good trackers I know also hold their chins or stroke their beards and utter “hmmm.” And, after that, they are free to pronounce exactly what type of mouse made the track.

Trust me, no one’s going to argue. Merry Christmas.

**STEVE GALEA**
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

O holy night

MY MOST CHERISHED Christmas moment comes when I sit quietly and recall the Christmas Eve when I heard an angel sing. Fresh-fallen snow protested beneath my gumboots breaking trail down the unploughed lane as I walked home that Christmas Eve. Dry, sharp squeaks, not unlike the cries of cheap chalk scrapped against too clean a blackboard.

Skuur-eek, skuur-eek.

The boots ignored the sounds. They moved on, ribbed rubber bottoms and laced high leather tops creating a meandering wake in the ankle-deep snow.

From each side of the lane, drifted snow leaned tiredly against the back-sides of the bungalows, dropped there by an impatient blizzard that just passed through. Their crests were indistinguishable against the white stucco walls but nearly reached tufted piles of fluffy snow clinging nervously to windowsills and eavestrough lips.



JIM POLING SR.

From Shaman's Rock

The squeaks flew through the still night air, dodging fat snowflakes that fell heavily onto my cap bill, occasionally splashing into my face, flushed warm from the walk.

Faint strains of music joined the squeaking as I approached our back fence. I stopped to hear the music more clearly, now identifiable as singing voices escaping through an open window.

I shuffled forward and listened to the notes float out crisply and clearly, then mingle with smoke rising from the chimneys. Notes and smoke rose together into an icy sky illuminated by frost crystals set shimmering by thousands of stars and a frosted moon.

The music was the Christmas carol *O Holy Night*, and the notes came from the window in my grandmother's room. It was open to the cold because most people smoked cigarettes back then and cracked a window at gatherings to thin the smoke. They sang the first verse, and, when they reached the seventh line, the other voices ceased and a single voice carried on alone:

"Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices! O Niiii ... iiight Diii... vine! ..."

That's the part where the voice rises higher and higher until the singer reaches a stratospheric note.

The solo voice belonged to Louise LaFrance, my grandmother, and I knew she was hitting that high note while sitting on the edge of the bed that had been her prison for sixteen years. She was crippled with limb-twisting rheumatoid arthritis and suffered searing pain and the humiliation of being bedridden, a humiliation that included needing a bedpan to relieve herself and having her son-in-law lift her naked body in and out of the bathtub.

She had taken up smoking to help ease the pain but had trouble holding a cigarette between her gnarled fingers.

She never complained or questioned why she had to bear the pain, and despite her frailty, she was a leader in our house. We brought our problems to her. When we hurt, we ran to her and she draped her twisted arms around us and absorbed our pain because she believed it was better that she have it than us.

The others had stopped singing to listen to her. A shiver danced on my spine the second time she hit the high notes at the words "O Night Divine."

When she finished singing *O Holy Night*, the other voices started up again, this time with *Silent Night* and other favourite carols.

I went into the house and found Christmas Eve celebrants — my mom, dad, and some neighbours — crowded into the ten-by-ten bedroom that was my grandmother's world. They sang long into the night, mostly in French because the neighbours were the Gauthiers who seldom spoke English to my grandmother and my mother.

After the singing ended my mother served tourtière, which I slathered with mustard and devoured as only a teenager can. Then we gathered at the tree and opened our gifts.

I have long forgotten what I got, and it doesn't matter, because my real gift was the understanding that those high notes were not solely the products of my grandmother's lungs. They came from a strength far beyond anything that mere human flesh can produce. They were high notes driven by something far stronger — an unbreakable spirit.

It was my grandmother's last Christmas. But the memory of her high notes and unbreakable spirit brings her back every Christmas Eve.

letters to the editor

To the back of the line

To the Editor,

Last week's *Minden Times* had a letter complaining about a lax response to COVID by some local businesses, and people, and [editor] Chad [Ingram] talked about all the crap on social media. The reason the cases keep going up, and we keep getting lockdowns, is becoming obvious. It wouldn't surprise me if the figure for people who are careless and not with the program with COVID is as high as 50 per cent. It is the all-about-me concept from a generation who has never known war or hardship.

Then there is social media, where some people have far too much time on their hands, with every conspiracy you can imagine: QAnon, 5G, COVID-19 is fake, anti-maskers, lockdowns are a conspiracy to take away our freedoms, vaccinations are bad ... Yeah, they don't remember polio!

I think that people who go out of their way to get COVID-19 should go to the back of the 87-

week waiting list of people needing care, should they require emergency care, and that anti-vaxxers, if their kids come down with something like polio, should bear the full cost of treatment and future care. I also am trying to figure out what their reaction would be if they had cancer or heart disease. If you deny scientific and medical knowledge, why would you concern yourself for treatment of either? No Chad, you can't vaccinate or fix stupid. This is why I took "We are all in this together," off the theatre sign and put "Karellen is coming on!"

Last but not least, Justin Trudeau will pour money into the economic recovery. Well, if the Americans will complete vaccinations by the end of May or mid-June at the latest, why are we talking late September to Christmas in Canada? If restrictions last that long, there may not be many businesses left to recover!

**Keith Stata
Kinmount**

Happy Holidays

THIS YEAR I am taking the week off between Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, 2021. It's the first time I've done this since I started the Point for Fitness in 2004. I love what I do so it really doesn't feel like work to me. This last half of 2020 has been different for all of us. While I feel fortunate that the pandemic didn't change my daily activities in a significant way, I am feeling worn out by the cloud of uncertainty that is all around us. This year I need to unplug for a bit. So I am. That is my definition of self-care.

This break will be for my mental health but I will be moving my body. I hope you will be as well as we close the year. Traditionally this holiday season is all about blowing our healthy routine out of the water. Given that this year is already different how about we use this time to either cement or create some great movement practices? Here's how:

Open up a calendar. Start whenever you like but label Days 1 through 7.

Day 1 will be a day for cardiovascular activity. Plan the amount of time that you're comfortable with. It doesn't matter if the activity is inside or outside. Book yourself an appointment.

Day 2 will be a day for a strengthening activity.

Day 3 will be cardio again.

Day 4 will be strength.

Day 5 will be cardio.

Day 6 strength.

Day 7 will be a day for active rest. Active

rest is some type of stretching. It can be informal or a yoga-type class.

The goal is to think outside of the box you are currently in as you are planning your activities for the different days. As an example, if indoor cycling is what you've been doing, try something completely different, like Zumba. If you've got a strength training program that you've been following religiously, look at ways to change it. There are wonderful body weight/mobility online classes.

Look at this as an opportunity to challenge your body in a way that you're not right now. This will require some self-examination. There are simple things to look at like:

Can you do a push-up?

Can you do a squat and hold for a period of time?

Can you touch your toes?

Can you run up the hill behind your house without coughing up a lung?

Those are a few examples to get you thinking. This time of year is about joy. I believe one of the greatest joys we can experience is feeling physically strong. Take this time to either stay there or get there!

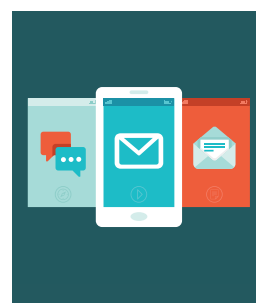
Something to think about ... and happy holidays everyone!

Laurie Sweig is a certified personal fitness trainer and spinning instructor. She owns and operates The Point for Fitness. She can be reached at laurie@thepointforfitness.com.



LAURIE SWEIG

Practical Fitness



Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to
chad@haliburtonpress.com

Reviewing physician recruitment program

by **CHAD INGRAM**
Editor

Haliburton County councillors discussed a number of potential changes to the county's physician recruitment program during a Dec. 16 meeting.

The county has a recruitment committee and a physician recruitment co-ordinator in the form of Cheryl Kennedy, formerly the administrator of the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team. A report received by councillors last week made a number of suggestions, including expanding the scope of the county's recruitment work to clinics outside of its borders that serve its residents, namely the clinics in Kinmount and Dorset.

"The reality is those clinics provide care to a lot of residents of Haliburton County," said chief administrative officer Mike Rutter, explaining it was the recommendation that if 20 per cent of the patients of a clinic were residents of Haliburton County, that the county assist in recruitment efforts.

"That's not significant to me," said Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts, wondering why the figure of 20 per cent had been chosen.

"From my perspective, it was more about numbers," said Rutter, adding that the 20 per cent threshold would mean that for a clinic with 750 patients on its roster, at least 150 of them would reside in the county.

Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt wondered about the specifics of determining where patients lived, since presumably that would involve accessing their files. Moffatt also wondered at what point the county

would approach neighbouring municipalities about funding.

In the case of the Dorset Health Hub, "The roster is full from what I understand, it's very difficult to get in there," Moffatt said. "And I would like to see a conversation between the operators of that clinic and the county before agreeing to this."

"I agree that we need to have a conversation knowing how many people in Minden Hills, including my own family, use the one in Kinmount," said Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin, adding he too wanted to see what percentage of patients at the clinic were actually from Haliburton County. "Since I've sat in this chair, there's been more doctors in Kinmount than there has been in Minden."

"This is a fulsome report with suggestions, recommendations for a number of significant changes in this program," said Moffatt. "This program is really maturing and the fact that there is an interest in having further discussion on this particular part is good news."

Among other recommendations was the expansion of the terms of reference for the county's recruitment activities, including the recruitment of rural generalists, nurse practitioners and locums.

"It is a really important part of physician recruitment," Rutter said of locums. "Physician burnout in rural practice is a really significant issue, so this is one area where we can ensure that the physicians get the respite that they require, but also that when they're on that leave of one form or another, that the community is still receiving medical care."

There is also a recommendation to change the financial incentives offered to physicians

by the county. Haliburton County currently offers \$25,000 per year to physicians who make a four-year commitment of service, and a maximum payout of \$150,000 for a six-year commitment. Research found that most communities seem to offer incentives of between \$100,000 and \$150,000 for a five-year term. The recommended change is to provide \$25,000 a year for a rural generalist up to a maximum of six years, and \$25,000 per year up to a maximum of four years for family and emergency doctors.

It's also recommended that up to \$5,000 worth of moving expenses for incoming physicians be covered by the county.

“

Since I've sat in this chair, there's been more doctors in Kinmount than there has been in Minden.

— MINDEN HILLS MAYOR BRENT DEVOLIN

”

Non-fic Pick - December



Get into the holiday spirit with Country Living's Christmas Joys. With hundreds of gorgeous decorating ideas, delicious recipes, and festive DIY projects, this book has a little something special for everyone. From holiday house tours and ways to deck the halls to handmade gifts and festive feasts, this beautiful book will help you celebrate Christmas in glorious Country Living style. Create stunning wreaths, turn saltshakers into sparkling snow globes, craft Advent calendars from tiny envelopes, bake gourmet-store-worthy cookies, and much more. Make the 2020 holiday season the best and brightest it can be! Come check out Christmas Joys as well as many other festive holiday favourites, all of which are available today from the Haliburton County

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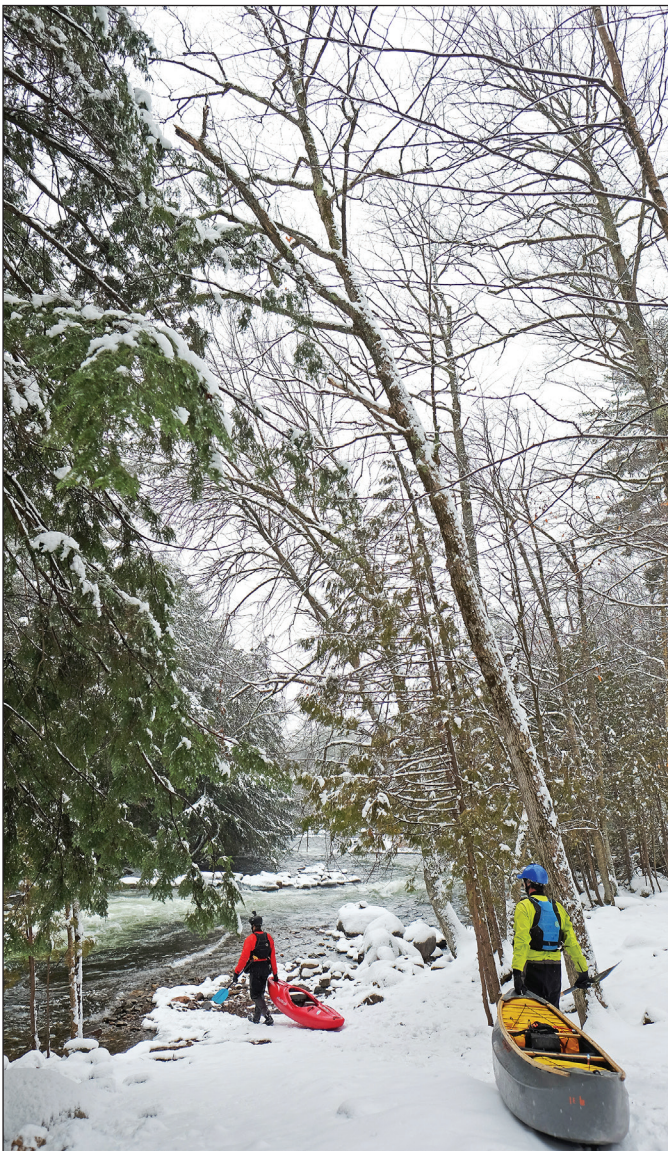
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Timo Einola, left, pulls his whitewater canoe to the Gull River with Mike Saunders following behind on Sunday, Dec. 20 at the Minden Whitewater Preserve.



Making a wintry splash

A paddler navigates the Gull River at the Minden Whitewater Preserve, on Sunday, Dec. 20 located on Horseshoe Lake Road. /DARREN LUM Staff



Paddler Kaitlyn Pinkett rides the current.



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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



Kinmount Railway Station chosen as 2020 Queen’s Park Pick

by SUE TIFFIN
Times Staff

Long a beloved landmark in the town of Kinmount, the former Kinmount Railway Station is now getting accolades as a 2020 Queen’s Park Pick.

Nearly 30 MPPs nominated their favourite buildings in their ridings across Ontario, in regions spreading from the Detroit River to James Bay, for the fifth celebration of Ontario’s architectural culture, organized by the Ontario Association of Architects. Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott nominated the Kinmount train station, which was completed in 1876 and is now home to the Kinmount Heritage Model Railway and Museum.

“There are so many outstanding pieces of architecture around Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock that make our small towns so unique,” Scott told the *Times*. “The Kinmount Railway Station is especially important to me as it’s in my own community. I have lots of family memories that were central to the railway station and it is also a reflection of how our community was founded and how we were all connected.”

The Kinmount Railway Station was one of nine projects selected as a 2020 Queen’s Park Pick under the theme “Toward a Better Urban Future,” which Scott said she was thrilled about.

“The railway station is one of the buildings that has stood the test of time in our community, surviving floods and the great fire of 1942, it’s important that we honour these historic monuments that represent the beginning of our town,” she said.



The Kinmount Railway Station has been acknowledged as a 2020 Queen’s Park Pick. The building was nominated by Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott. /Photo by Guy Scott

The building has long been an important one to the community, including Scott’s family.

“The Kinmount Railway Station brought the Scott family to Kinmount in 1877 and provided employment opportunities for our family for generations,” she said. “The rail-

way truly was the lifeline of Kinmount in its time and was how our community members stayed connected or just went to neighbouring towns to play hockey games. In its beginning, the 109th Battalion used the train station during World War One and my grandfather and brother rode on the last passenger train

from Kinmount to Bancroft in the 1960s.”

Scott said working for the railway was considered to be one of the best jobs in the community because of Robert Bennett Blair, who was the station agent from 1933 to 1956.

“My uncle had the opportunity to be trained by Bob in the 1950s in several areas including Morse code and he continued on his career due to this well-respected teacher in the community,” she said.

Nowadays, the station building, which includes the model railway and historical research centre, sits on park property next to the river, a focal point for the town.

“The railway station is now a visitor’s centre with local artifacts maintained by local enthusiasts and a reminder of how our community began,” said Scott. “It’s important to remember not only the economic purposes of the railway, but also the connectivity it provided to people outside the community as we have realized this year especially, is so important. Whether it was going to work, transporting goods, or meeting up with friends to watch a hockey game in a neighbouring town, the railway station was and still is a community hub for all its residents.”

Besides the Kinmount Railway Station nominated by Scott, the nominations selected for the Queen’s Park Picks online exhibit are the Cabbagetown neighbourhood in Toronto; No. 11 McIntyre Headframe in Timmins; Beaver Barracks in Ottawa; Capitol Theatre in Windsor; 1855 BDO Whitby Accelerator in Whitby; The Bentway in Toronto; Walkerton Clean Water Centre and MacDonald Hall in Guelph.

For more information about the 2020 Queen’s Park Picks visit: <https://oaa.on.ca/Queens-Park-Picks>.



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A brief history of the Kinmount Railway Station

by GUY SCOTT
Special to the Times

The station was, and still is, the centre of the village of Kinmount. Centre means economic, cultural, and geographical centre. Even today, 50 years after the last train in town, it still is the heart of the village. It has a history so vast and fascinating, it transcends the story of an ordinary building.

The station was built in 1876. The official opening on Nov. 30, 1876 was duly recorded in detail by the *Lindsay Post* newspaper. A special train was sent from Lindsay, full of dignitaries, to officiate at the ceremony. The local school was closed so the children could be part of this historical event. The arrival of the Victoria Railway was to change the history of the whole community, and everybody could sense it! The village boomed from 50 residents to 500 in the next few years. The struggling little hamlet of Kinmount drew business from all the surrounding communities and cemented Kinmount as the hub of the area. Let the good times roll!

The station itself was built by a Kirkfield contractor named William Mackenzie. He also built the Fenelon Falls station (still standing today as well). Mackenzie had a reputation for quality work. His buildings have stood the test of time. This contract was his first foray into the world of railway work. Mackenzie seemed to enjoy the railway business, because over the next five decades he built an empire that garnered him the nickname The Railway King of Canada. From his first humble business (the Shoefly Store), he founded the transcontinental Canadian Northern Railway (forerunner of the CNR) and became the richest man in Canada. He was knighted by King Edward VII. Sir William, as he was called locally, helped build the CPR, started the Toronto Transit Commission and lived in mansions, both at Kirkfield and in Toronto.

Despite his fame and fortune, Sir William had a soft spot for his home area. Many a local man found a railway job with the “Eldon Reserve,” his private railway crew who worked all over the country. Sir William was so famous and respected, he was “offered” the position of Prime Minister of Canada after the death of Sir John A Macdonald! He refused the honour. Local legend has it the Kinmount Station is haunted by the ghost of Sir William. On at least five occasions the village of Kinmount was destroyed by fire. The station, right in the heart of town, never suffered a scorched shingle! In the Great Fire of 1942, buildings on all sides of the station were totally destroyed, but the station was left untouched amid a sea of desolation. Well done Sir William!

Kinmount had not one railway line, but two lines! So successful was the Victoria Railway, a second line, the Irondale, Bancroft & Ottawa Railway aka the Great IB&O, was built from Howland Junction (just north of the village) to Bancroft. This quirky line was nicknamed the Great IOU and was bankrupt after a few decades. Sir William of the CoNR kindly bought the line and ran it at a loss, just because he had a soft spot for the area. Little remains of the Great IB&O today, except for the small waiting room at Howland Junction. In 2012, the residents of the community decided to move the badly dilapidated Howland Junction Station from its home down the line to Kinmount to nestle besides its larger cousin, the Kinmount Station. Upon further review, it was found the old IB&O station was too far decayed to be moved. So a new “imitation station” was built at the Kinmount site to honour the history of the two railway lines.

When the Victoria Railway was started in 1874, a labour shortage plagued the build-



A train arrives at the station in the 1890s. /Submitted by Guy Scott

“

Even today, 50 years after the last train in town, it still is the heart of the village.

”

ers. So a group of 360 Icelandic immigrants, newly arrived, were recruited as labourers. They were shipped to Kinmount to work on the northern section. Their 10-month sojourn in the village was not a successful story, and they left enmass for Gimili, Manitoba in 1875. Their ancestors dwell there today. All that remains of their first adventure in Canada is a plaque and sculpture nuzzled against the station at Kinmount.

The Victoria Railway was a financially successful venture, linking the communities of Haliburton and Northern Victoria County to the outside world. Freight volume grew so much, an extension to the baggage room was added after a few years. Numerous sidings branched off the rail yards to serve local saw mills, businesses and the general public. Four trains a day stopped at the station during its heyday. All passenger traffic to the outside world was funnelled through the station. The waiting room was constantly filled and there were always box cars in the yard. Stops at Kinmount took a long time to organize with lots of coupling and shunting.

The Kinmount Station and the Victoria Railway went through a number of ownership changes. The Victoria Railway was snapped up by the Midland Railway Company who in turn merged with Grand Trunk. That company was bought out by Canadian National Railways which held ownership until the end.

Being on the banks of the Burnt River, the station was threatened by flooding on several occasions. In 1928 the Great Flood inundated the main street and the station yard. The water covered the station floor and came up to the level of the fire box in the waiting room stove. But the trains kept coming! Passengers were shuttled from the platform by canoe to higher ground. And Sir William's handiwork passed the test and no damage was recorded!

In the latter half of the 20th century, railways began a steady decline. The Great

see STATION page 12



The former railway station now serves as the Kinmount Heritage Model Railroad and Museum. /Photos submitted by Guy Scott



The interior of the former railway station in Kinmount is now dedicated to providing historical information about the railway, and home to a model railroad showing what the site once looked like.

Health unit advising people ‘stay safe and stay home’ over the holidays

by **SUE TIFFIN**
Times Staff

“Home for the holidays” is a saying with extra meaning in 2020, according to the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District acting medical officer of health, Dr. Ian Gemmill.

“With COVID-19 cases circulating and on the rise across much of Ontario, the need to stay safe and stay home has never been so important this holiday season,” said Gemmill.

The health unit is encouraging all residents to avoid holiday gatherings; celebrate the holidays in-person only with those in your immediate household or family; celebrate virtually or connect by phone with family and friends, including those whom you would otherwise not see; avoid non-essential travel, especially to parts of Ontario with high rates of COVID-19 transmission, and in all instances, stay home if you are sick, staying home and separate until recovery or receiving medical clearance.

“We understand that limiting contacts and holiday festivities this December is difficult to hear at a time usually reserved for seasonal traditions, large family get-togethers and other activities,” said Gemmill. “But like so much in 2020, the pandemic has forced all of us to change how we live... and unfortunately, it also means adjusting plans this holiday season to reduce the risk of COVID-19.

While we realize the hardships that people have faced and the ongoing sacrifices that they are making, the health unit also asks everyone to keep up the good work by continuing to follow these important COVID-19 prevention measures. They can reduce the spread and help our health care services to respond better to the increasing cases.”

Gemmill noted the province’s self-assessment website, at covid-19.ontario.ca/ self-assessment to help with guidance and recommendations.

“Ontario is firmly in the grips of the second wave of COVID-19,” said Gemmill. “We are seeing it reflected in rising COVID-19 cases locally, as well as worrying province-wide increases in hospital admissions and intensive care unit occupancy due to the virus. Regardless of where we live, be it a grey, red, orange, yellow or green COVID-19 zone, the fact is that our collective actions will make a huge difference in how bad COVID-19 gets this winter. It should be an extra motivator to take every recommended preventive measure, especially when we know the toll COVID-19 is already taking on our hospitals and health care system. With new COVID-19 vaccines on the way, we need to continue our efforts to contain the spread of the virus.”

Gemmill said continuing with COVID-19 prevention measures is critical to reduce the spread of the virus and lessen the load on our health care system.

“No matter who we are, or where we live,

we need to stay home if ill; wear a mask when inside public places; practise physical distancing by remaining two metres (six feet) apart from others; wash hands thoroughly and frequently with soap and water; avoid non-essential travel, especially to high risk areas; celebrate the holidays safely, including avoiding large gatherings and only celebrating in-person with those in our immediate household.”

Further information and recommendations about celebrating the holidays during the novel coronavirus pandemic is available at www.hkpr.on.ca/2020/10/06/covid-19-holidays-celebrations-and-faith-based-events/.

“The holidays can still be merry and bright, and let’s also look forward to a happier, healthier New Year, especially with new COVID-19 vaccines on the way,” said Gemmill.

New Cases Reported Today			
0	1	2	
Haliburton	KawarthaLakes	Northumberland	

Total Confirmed Cases to Date			
27	223	211	461
Haliburton (HAL)	Kawartha Lakes (CKL)	Northumberland (NTH)	HKPRDHU

COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by County							
County	Cases Not Resolved	Cases Resolved	Current High-Risk Contacts	Current Probable Cases	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Deaths among Confirmed Cases	Deaths among Probable Cases
Haliburton	0	27	5	0	1	0	0
Northumberland	44	166	198	0	6	1	0
Kawartha Lakes	4	200	32	0	11	19	13

COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths, HKPRDHU							
All Counties	Cases Not Resolved	Cases Resolved	Current High-Risk Contacts	Current Probable Cases	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Deaths among Confirmed Cases	Deaths among Probable Cases
HKPRDHU	48	393 *	369	0	18	20	13

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SUDOKU

	3	2	8			7	9	
	4						6	
6		7	2	4			5	
7			9		5	4		3
8					4		7	
	5	4	3	1				9
		5	4	6	8	2		
	7		5					
					1			8

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 15

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

COVID-19 count

As of Dec. 22's update, there are no current confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Haliburton County being reported by the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit, and five current high-risk contacts. For more information visit [www.hkpr.on.ca.](https://www.hkpr.on.ca/) /Screenshot from HKPRDHU website

Station survived fires and floods

from page 11

IB & O was closed in 1960. Passenger traffic was discontinued and the old station building began to look abandoned. The waiting room was turned into storage and grass grew up in the rail bed. In the 1970s, CN closed the branch line altogether. The assets, including all the stations, were offered to the two counties, Victoria and Haliburton, for a small cost. Fortunately both counties leapt at the chance to acquire these valuable assets and the railway line and the stations were saved for posterity. The rails were torn up and sold, but the bridges and trestles preserved so traffic of a different sort could still use the corridors for recreation.

The Kinmount Station was refurbished and entered a new career as a senior citizens' centre. Eventually, the seniors left and the station began a new life as a tourist information centre. The old building was brought back to its original state. The station was given a new foundation. When it was returned to the foundation, every door and window still opened and closed like new. Sir William built to last!

Washrooms and a small kitchen were added, and later wheelchair access. The information centre occupied the waiting room, and the ticket office became an office once more. The baggage area was converted into a model railway, faithfully depicting the old railway line from Kinmount to Haliburton with over 60 feet of historical settings and moving model trains. (The trains are "turned around" in the kitchen! Its not often lunch

cooks share their kitchen with a train!) The Kinmount Model Railway Club constructed the train display and open it to the public in the summer months. Kinmount is likely one of the few villages where the railway line is inside the Station.

Today the City of Kawartha Lakes keeps the station and the railway yards in tip-top shape. The site is heavily used, both in summer and winter. There is parking for those who use the recreational railway corridor for hiking, cycling, horse riding, ATVing and of course, snowmobiling. The neighbouring Austin Sawmill is being converted in a historical site. The mill yard is a delicious park. On Saturdays in the summer, a farmers' market is held in the yards as well as many community events. A public washroom complex is attached to the station for the general public to use. The local historical society operates a research centre in one end of the Station. And of course, the whole area is littered with historical plaques, displays and information. The whole complex is intensively used for all seasons.

If there is one point to be made about the old station and its surrounding complex besides all the features above, it is its visibility. Anyone passing through Kinmount from any direction, cannot miss the station. It sits in the centre of the village in all its dignity, proudly visible to all. Thus it was in the 1880s, and so it is today. It's not only a symbol of times gone by, but also of the present. It perfectly melds the past and present, and still has a job to do.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS & Happy New Year!

Hall of Fame working toward fulfilling vision

by **DARREN LUM**
Times Staff

It's no surprise that COVID-19 put a delay on the plans for the Haliburton Highlands Hall of Fame's first induction ceremony that was originally planned for October this year.

Like the high-level athletes they want to recognize, the people behind the hall of fame have continued to work towards their goal to recognize the men and women who have contributed to the Highlands community or have represented the area with character and athletic achievement, whether as a professional or as an amateur.

Scott LaRue, chairman of the hall of fame's management committee, said even though they've been set back by a year, he is eyeing the future with optimism and holds true to the original vision that remains at the foundation of the effort, starting close to three years ago.

"We want to identify and honour the people that actually represented Haliburton County in sports in an extraordinary way. They're not an average person. They're a person that has excelled in sports in the county, male or female in whatever sport," he said.

Corroborating what individuals achieved will depend on word-of-mouth and from newspaper articles. The categories for inductees will be athlete, builder and teams. Inductions

will be every two years. The first group of chosen inductees were supposed to have been inducted in October with a ceremony held at the Pinestone Resort and Conference Centre in Haliburton.

LaRue said the first inductees have been chosen, but he wasn't divulging who specifically was supposed to have been recognized. He offered this hint.

"It's fairly probable, let's put it that way, that anybody who has a picture on the [A.J. LaRue Arena] will be inducted. Anybody that has made it to as far as they can go in their sport, whether it's amateur or professional. If they get to the top [coming] out of a little town like this then they're probably well-qualified to be an inductee," he said.

The painted murals on the arena LaRue referenced are of retired CFL player Mike Bradley, retired NHL players Ron Stackhouse, Bernie Nicholls, Cody Hodgson and current NHL player Matt Duchene. LaRue also named his father for who the arena is named after for his contributions to hockey and the community, and Olympian hurdler Lesley Tashlin, who competed at the summer Olympics in Atlanta in 1996.

LaRue didn't specify how many inductees were chosen for the first year, but said there will be some who will be inducted posthumously. All living inductees must have been retired for five years, or if they've moved to the county must have been a resident for the past five years.

“

It's fairly probable, let's put it that way, that anybody who has a picture on the [A.J. LaRue Arena] will be inducted. Anybody that has made it to as far as they can go in their sport, whether it's amateur or professional.

— SCOTT LARUE

”

"They got to have earned the right to be in the Hall of Fame of Haliburton not only by being a professional in some other place or home they got to show they are willing to work in the county in sports," he said.

Since this effort began, the hall of fame has always planned to use the auditorium space on the second floor of the A.J. LaRue Arena.

The hall of fame became a member organization of the Haliburton County Community Co-operative in the spring of 2019.

As a result, the co-operative's committee's Jim Blake the hall of fame committee and acts as representative for the co-operative.

LaRue said there are benefits to joining the co-operative such as being covered for liability insurance and they provide \$500 seed money. Also, he adds Blake is an asset to have on the committee because of his experience and knowledge of the area.

The expected success and the continued drive to see the hall of fame come to fruition comes down to the people behind it, serving on the board and on the sub-committees.

"It's all pulling together towards next October so you [might] run into the odd roadblock. The people we have you couldn't get a group of better individuals as far as knowledgeable and willing to spend time and so on and so forth," he said. "Overall, I'm pretty satisfied with it other than the interruption with COVID-19, which set us back a year."

The hall of fame committee includes chairman, LaRue, secretary treasurer, Roger Dart, Dysart et al Deputy Mayor Pat Kennedy, members Roger Trull, Jim Bradley, Kelly Mitchell, Don Popple, Paul Morissette, and Blake.

LaRue said the hall of fame website is close to being active, and a logo is currently in the process of being completed. These will be based on other examples taken from other halls of fame throughout Ontario. Many of these action items are being executed by the hall's sub-committees for induction, fundraising, website, sports history, selection, nomination, induction plaques and logo.

Also, discussions are ongoing related to the inductee plaques, which will include a picture of the individual or teams, complemented with a write-up of their career and why he/she/they have been inducted. The plaque sub-committee will decide what the plaque's final form takes, he said.

This hall isn't just about Haliburton, but is for all of the Highlands.

Despite what some might think is a Haliburton-centric initiative, LaRue said, he welcomes people from all over the Highlands, including Minden to join the effort to bringing the hall of fame to life.

"We haven't forgotten about Minden at all. It's just that I started this organization and my idea was to always have it in Haliburton," he said.

Currently, the call for sports artifacts is on hold until the venue is secured and ready for display.

The aim is to have memorabilia that is relevant to the inductees put on display.

"It will be a rotating type of thing," he said. "Every two years we'll rotate the memorabilia so people won't be looking at the same thing forever."

LaRue hopes this hall of fame will be good for the community and for visitors.

"Have people come into Haliburton and want to take a look at the people that were prominent in the sports world of Haliburton County. Basically it's another attraction for tourists and people that come up here," he said.



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Winter fun for Families

A seasonal treat offered by the Early ON Child and Family Centre last week brought joy to children and families through a free winter-themed craft and activity bag offered through curbside pick-up. The craft was suitable for kids aged one to six – and their other family members – and the activity bag included a cold weather outdoor activity tips sheet, sug-

gestions for seasonal activities for fun and learning, recipes to try, songs and finger plays and a winter-themed book. Follow OEYC City of Kawartha Lakes & Haliburton County on social media or call 705-324-7900 for more details about programming.

Two-year-old Isaac Talluri, of Minden, had quite a bit of fun with the family-friendly craft offered by the Early ON Child and Family Centre last week. / Photo submitted by Amanda Talluri



Snow for Christmas

A Minden Hills township vehicle plows snow and drops sand on Horseshoe Lake Road on Sunday Dec. 20, following an overnight snow event. There were accumulations of several centimetres of snow in the area, which kept township road crews busy. They were able to clear secondary roads before the day ended. /DARREN LUM Staff

SUDOKU SOLUTION

1	3	2	8	5	6	7	9	4
5	4	9	1	7	3	8	6	2
6	8	7	2	4	9	3	5	1
7	6	1	9	8	5	4	2	3
8	9	3	6	2	4	1	7	5
2	5	4	3	1	7	6	8	9
9	1	5	4	6	8	2	3	7
4	7	8	5	3	2	9	1	6
3	2	6	7	9	1	5	4	8

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Health Unit Holiday Hours

The Health Unit office will be closed for the holiday season on:
December 24, 25, 28, 31 and
January 1

Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season from the staff of the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit.



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County of Haliburton Holiday Office Hours

The County of Haliburton wishes to provide PUBLIC NOTICE that the Administration Building at 11 Newcastle Street, Minden, will close on **Thursday, December 24, 2020** at 12:30 p.m. and will re-open for regular business on **Monday, January 4, 2020.**

The County Roads Department has a 24 hour call answer service (705-286-1762) should you require immediate assistance.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!



County of Haliburton Notices

2021 Budget

The Council of the County of Haliburton wishes to provide PUBLIC NOTICE that Haliburton County Council will be reviewing the 2021 Budget on:

- Monday January 11, 2021 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at a Special Council Meeting

And that further 2021 budget discussions will occur thereafter at regularly scheduled Committee of the Whole and Council meetings until the budget is approved.

- Wednesday January 20, 2021
- Wednesday February 10, 2021
- Wednesday February 24, 2021
- Wednesday March 10, 2021
- Wednesday March 24, 2021

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Nurse Practitioner

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- Knowledge of Haliburton County community

The Haliburton Youth Wellness Hub is committed to employment equity, inclusion, and diversity, and welcomes applications from Indigenous persons, persons who are visible minorities, persons with disabilities, and persons of any sexual or gender orientation.

Please send resume by Jan. 8th, 2020 to:

Mary Sisson
Haliburton Youth Wellness Hub Manager
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640 IN MEMORIAM

Ed Litwin

Nov 17, 1960 – Dec. 25, 2019

Ed we miss you each and every day. We are working hard on your dream project and know that you would be touched by all the help we are getting from fantastic friends and family. We truly appreciate the help.

Whenever we are stumped I pause and think “what would Ed do”. Next thing you know the solution is found. You taught us all well.

Tim reminds me to be patient and is a big help. Alexandra jumps in to lend a hand when I huff and puff. The guys tell me to get out of their way. We will finish what you started.

You were taken from us before any of us were ready to lose you. You set a fantastic example of how to deal with terminal cancer with grace. We were blessed

to have you strong for two and a half years. I will always be thankful that you did not suffer long when things got bad.

Love you always,

Lynda

COVID-19

To place an ad please contact:
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Due to the pandemic's 28-day provincial lockdown our Minden Times office will be closed to the public until Monday, January 25th. Our newspapers will still be printing as usual during this time.

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Monday, December 23, 1996



Christmas

With a heavenly host of angels singing their hearts out, students of Mrs. Sisson's grade one class at Archie Stouffer Elementary School reminded the audience at the annual Christmas Concert the reason for the celebration. Members of the tableau include, from the left, shepherd Brady Hicks, angels Ashleigh Scholling and Jessica Austen. Three sheep Kate King, Robin Lennox and Kelci Haley, 'Mary' Madeline Stewart and 'Joseph' Jeffrey Fennell. For more photos from the Christmas concert see page six.

Ceiling repairs put off until summer

by Andrew Milne

Potentially hazardous ceilings in classrooms at the Haliburton high school will be replaced next summer.

One of the heavy plaster and gypsum ceilings collapsed a few weeks ago, possibly due to water damage. The collapse occurred on a weekend, when the classroom was unoccupied.

An engineer who reviewed the situation did not suggest there was imminent danger of collapse in the other rooms, and said it was possible the

ceiling which collapsed may have been weakened by the water damage sustained decades ago, when a heating pipe in the ceiling burst. However, the engineer recommended that in the interest of safety the other ceilings be replaced with lighter materials as well.

The ceiling in the room in which the collapse occurred is being replaced immediately, a project the board has been told will be finished at the end of January.

(more on page 5)

Liquor store break-in nets \$17,000

by Andrew Milne

Thieves made off with around \$17,000 worth of liquor following a break-in at Minden's LCBO early Sunday morning (December 15).

It is believed the same thieves also broke into the county building, stealing a truck and then using it to transport the stolen liquor. The truck was discovered in Belleville later in the week.

Investigating officer Constable Mike Bennett of the OPP says the thieves gained entry through the front window of the store, then loaded the cases out the back door. The break-in occurred sometime between the hours of 2 and 4:30 a.m.

Police were carrying out forensic tests on the truck last week in hopes of developing further leads.

Difficult year ahead

Fearrey returned as Warden

by Jerry Grozelle

It came as no surprise when incumbent warden of Haliburton County, Murray Fearrey, was returned for a second consecutive term.

Fearrey was the only member of county council to be nominated. Councillor Jeanne Anthon, emphasizing the need for continuity, nominated Fearrey for a second consecutive term. The nomination was seconded by councillor and Dysart Deputy Reeve Bill Davis.

"I want to thank county council for the confidence you have indicated by electing me to serve as your warden for 1997," Fearrey said.

Fearrey pointed out that the current council has had two years to become familiar with each other.

"I hope I understand better each of your strengths and weaknesses, and you mine," Fearrey said. "It will take all the strength we can generate as a team to make the decisions required in the year ahead."

Fearrey said that council unanimously agreed in 1995 to analyze the county's governance, as expressed in the mission statement which was prepared at the Bark Lake

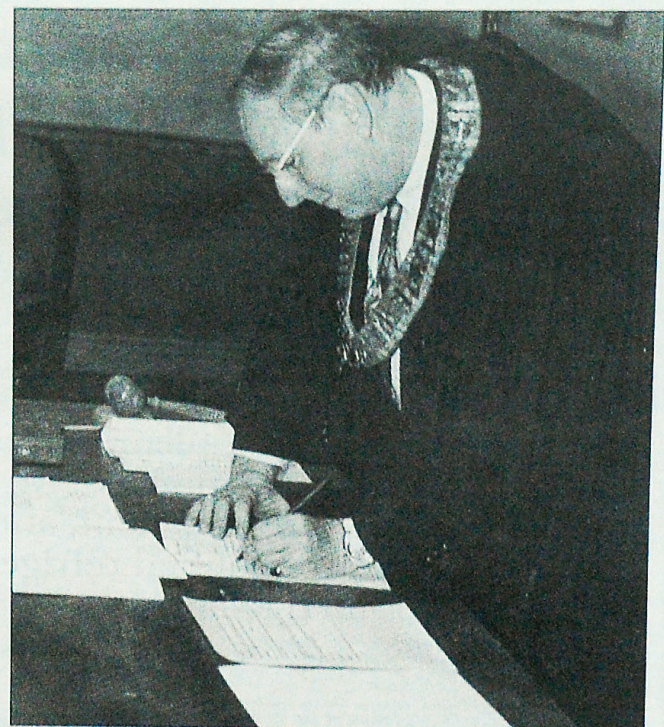
meeting. It was also agreed in 1996, during a restructuring meeting, to examine one-tier government and a modified two-tier systems.

"We stalled when trying to address the aspect of self-ex-

amination and the possible ramifications," he noted. "It would be almost impossible to be completely objective."

The one-tier system was rejected.

(more on page 2)



Dysart Reeve Murray Fearrey signs the documents as he agrees to serve as Warden of Haliburton County for another year. This is the fifth time Fearrey has been elected Warden.



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